

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-17 and 19 and rewritten claims 7, 12 and 18 in amended form to more clearly define the invention.

In the aforementioned Office Action original claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson, U.S. Patent Number 2,587,855 in view of Toshio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,169,688).

In making that rejection, the Examiner stated:

“It is noted that Johnson failed to teach the use of an artificial skating surface with the structural features as set forth in these claims. However, Toshio disclosed an artificial ice skating rink comprising a plurality of synthetic resin panels (2) each of which has a substantially planar upper major surface, a planar lower major surface and peripheral sides extending there between, means (3, 4) in the form of a metal spline (4) (column 2, line 28) and groove (3) for maintaining the panels in a side-by-side juxtapositioned abutting relationship to thereby form a relatively smooth skating surface as shown in Fig. 6, and a generally flat base (8) for supporting the panels thereon. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the ice layer (8) with the panels (2) as taught by Toshio for the purpose of providing an all season skating surface as well as reducing the maintenance cost of the skating surface.”

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 7 is now clearly and patentably distinguished over the aforementioned references. As amended, claim 7 now calls for:

a fixed frame adjustment means fixed in the base and operable on two sides of the generally rectangular upper skating surface for forcing and maintaining the panels tightly together and for compensating for changes in temperature. Neither Johnson or Toshio suggest this concept. Further, it is Applicants' contention that this concept is not suggested by Nirenski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,771,891). It is true that Nirenski et al. discloses a portable rink assembly having frame adjustment means. However, as disclosed by Nirenski et al. the frame adjustment means includes longitudinal straps 7 which run under the synthetic panels. By contrast, in Applicants' amended claim 7 the adjustment means is fixed in the base which eliminates the need for the longitudinal straps. Accordingly, it is Applicants' contention that amended claim 7 and dependent claims 12 and 18 should be allowed.

Further, amended claim 7 calls for a source of ultraviolet light disposed above said upper skating surface and means for directing ultraviolet light onto the skating surface. Amended claim 7 also calls for a variable source of white light disposed above said skating surface and means for directing white light onto the skating surface.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest Applicants' novel combination of elements. To be more specific they do not disclose or suggest a source of ultraviolet light disposed above the upper skating surface, means for directing the ultraviolet light onto the skating surface or a variable source of white light disposed above the skating surface and means for directing white light onto the skating surface. Accordingly, it is Applicants' contention that amended claim 7 should be allowed.

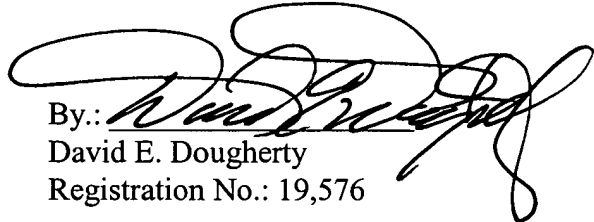
Further, it is Applicants' contention that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the novel combination of elements as set forth in amended claim 7 and dependent claims 12 and 18. Therefore, the application should be allowed.

Accordingly, it is Applicants' contention that this application should be allowed.

Prompt favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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